

The RAYMOND RECORDER

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INSIDE STORY

While there were reportedly many parts missing in the jigsaw puzzle of the so-called "courage" visit to this capital of United States Defence Secretary James Forrestal since many questions remained after he had come and gone, yet a hint of some important aftermath is contained in what is known to have taken place in this meeting of top levels on defence in North America with this being especially significant in view of the delicate situation now known to exist on the international scene where leaders bluntly warn that nations must be "strong enough" to defend themselves if they want peace. At least, that is the kind of peace which exists at the moment judging from observations on Parliament Hill and the loud whispers heard on defence preparations.

It is known that the U.S. Defence Secretary Forrestal held a two-hour meeting here with the defence committee of the Cabinet, with amongst those present said to have been External Affairs Minister St. Laurent, Defence Minister Claxton, four Chief of Staffs, General A.G.L. McNaughton, and others. It is known that the U.S. top defence official found Canada's plans moving "along the same lines" as that of U.S. It is known that the standardization of arms is still under discussion but no decision has been revealed, if any has been made. It is known that the U.S. top official may have sought information about bases including those in Newfoundland though reportedly for "his own information" and not "by governments."

This much is known about the "courage" visit of U.S. Defence Secretary James Forrestal and observers in this capital seem to attach more importance to this visit than appears on the surface at the moment in face of every effort to call it a mere "courage" visit.

NO ALLIANCE YET

No formal alliance as yet exists

between the Union Nationale Party of Prime Minister Maurice Duplessis of Quebec and the Progressive-Conservative Party, it is learned here, though rumors of such a combination have been circulating for several weeks. However, there is little doubt here where the sympathy of Union Nationale supporters lies and it is expected that, when the Progressive Conservatives gather here for their national convention at the end of September a huge bloc will represent such supporters in Quebec though there appears to be definite efforts made to deny than any such open alliance exists or is even now being negotiated.

IS THIS A HINT?

By studying reports about Premier King's tentative plans for the next couple of months it is interpreted along Parliament Hill that he may make a formal move to hand over the Prime Ministership to Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent sometime toward the end of November or beginning of December. It is understood that this may take place after Premier King has attended the United Nations Assembly in Paris where it starts on September 21 and the gathering of British Commonwealth of Nations Prime Ministers scheduled for London starting on October 16 with time permitting calling for Mr. King to visit some other capitals in the Old World before returning here in November.

DON'T GET EXCITED.

While eggs, beef, butter etc. may be the subject of countless reports in the press or over the radio and most of these stories tending to suggest sensational booms in prices or shortages in the making, yet a veteran observer in this capital must report that this spreading of such stories is causing more panic than the actual developments in the trade with the result that panic buying could be instrumental in bringing about price booms and shortages which otherwise would not exist at all or at least not to the extent which results. In other words the observations here amongst officials who should know about supplies of such foods as well as price trends do not confirm the numerous stories heard.

Indeed, inquiries indicate clearly that normal buying and natural reaction of consumers to advancing prices have been powerful influences in keeping prices down. It happens in several Canadian cities in regard to eggs and other items with so-called "buyers resistance" to rising prices forcing chain stores and corner grocers to lower their prices or be "stuck" with the goods. Report after report of minor stampedes for certain foodstuffs only help profiteers whether these are spread deliberately or "accidentally", it is emphasized by those who should know consumer reactions.

REPORTS ARE DENIED

A report that the United States will be allowed to continue operating bases acquired during the war in Newfoundland even after it becomes Canada's 19th province is not confirmed here where it is stressed that this will not be discussed until Newfoundland has actually entered Confederation presently held as likely by March 31, 1949. Furthermore, a report that Canada cannot afford to maintain such bases is also flatly contradicted here in informed quarters. There is no truth whatever in this latter report judging from inquiries here.

GAYROCKETING PRICES

Both the quality and quantity of beef available to consumers in various sections across Canada are expected to go down but the prices go up as a result of the lifting of export controls over shipment of such meats to the U.S. with this heard in this capital that this may affect the cost of living index by another upward swing of about 2 points, though an all-time high of 156.9 has now been registered. However at the same time it is believed here that "buyers resistance" to higher prices will force initial upswings in meat prices to fall sooner or later. In regard to supplies Canadian meat stocks totalled \$9,291,709 lbs. on August 1 in cold storage holdings whereas a year ago on same date these had been recorded at 63,367,495 lbs.

SAID IN THE CAPITAL

"International affairs are bedevilled with prejudices and misunderstandings simply the result of half-educated minds unable to resist the appeal of other half-educated minds," said UnderSecretary of State for External Affairs "Mike" Pearson in an address in the capital.

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emphasized Dick Bell, National Director of the Progressive-Conservative Party, telling here of plans for his party's national convention in Ottawa opening on September 30th.

"Conditions may have changed greatly since I was there but I think there will be a change for the better when Newfoundland comes in with Canada," Rev. H. D. Whitmore stated here where he is now a resident and who had spent ten years in Newfoundland prior to coming to Canada this being in 1909.

"This shows clearly that Canadians as a whole are big consumers of the best food on the market", remarked Dr. A. H. White, expert of the Agriculture Department, Canadian Government pointing out that last year the average consumption of milk in Canada was 1,300 pounds per person.

"The Canadian Construction Association takes the view that the Dominion Government should recognize its responsibility in connection with such roads by granting sums of money to the provinces to assist in their construction" said President Allan C. Ross here commenting on reports that a Dominion-Provincial Conference may be called to discuss the Trans Canada Highway.

WEEKLY WIND-UP

Rising costs of wax paper, flour, fats, wages etc., may force bakers to boost bread prices in some areas across Canada it is forecast here, though it is known that bakers generally are anxious to keep such prices down because the masses appear to be particularly sensitive to price increases for bread.

There is a strong possibility that some relaxation at least temporarily may be made by the authorities here to allow into Canada motor car parts from the U.S. so that present interruptions in production of motor vehicles may be avoided on account of "bottlenecks".

A report about a new wrapper for butter being used on a widespread scale shortly is heard here but this will mean a slight increase in cost even if it is said to be worth the difference because it will help to keep the butter in better condition longer both in the consumer's refrigerator and in cold storage.

It is true that Canada's Unemployment Insurance Fund has reached a

total of close to half a billion dollars but it is pointed out here that it has not been tested by any depression with the hint being that a depression could use up the surplus in surprisingly fast time. In 1931 the worst year of the depression over 20 % of the population was unemployed in Canada, it is worth remembering.

Premier King has not been requested to remain in the cabinet until the next general election in face of rumors to that effect, it is learned along Parliament Hill where it is understood that no steps to that effect have been taken since Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent became leader of the Liberal Party.

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